

WILSON ACCUSED BY WHEAT KING

Misrepresentation of Facts Charged by Patten.

HINTS OF WALL STREET

Chicago Operator Denies Charge of Mere Gambling.

In Reply to Statement Issued by Secretary of Agriculture, He Reiterates Former Declaration of Shortage in Wheat Supply—His Agents Could Place the Reserve, He Says. Refers to Squeezing of Shorts.

Chicago, April 17.—"The wheat shorts" are in Wall street, and it is pretty well known that Wall street has some influence at Washington. The only thing Secretary Wilson has correct in his statement is that I am making money in wheat. I admit that.

Snatching under the charge that he has been conducting a "corner," and has been robbing the consumers of bread, James A. Patten, Chicago's wheat king, thus replied to the charges of self-interest made in Washington to-day. Besides, he declared the Department of Agriculture was purposely misrepresenting the facts.

Mr. Patten reiterated to-night his former declarations that Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson is misinformed, despite Wilson's public statement, issued at Washington to-day, in which he called Patten a gambler, and produced what he said was proof that the present high price of wheat on the Chicago Board of Trade was caused solely by Patten's manipulations.

When a correspondent called on Patten and showed him Wilson's statement, Patten read it over and smiled.

"I don't care to enter into any controversy with Secretary Wilson," he said. "He has made a statement based on information which he says cannot be doubted that I am responsible for the high price of wheat. Mr. Wilson believes his information is correct. I have positive information that does not agree with Secretary Wilson's, and I know my informants know what they are talking about."

"Secretary Wilson seems to be positive in his convictions, and I am so positive in mine that I am risking my money on the reliability of my informants. We differ; that's all."

"Secretary Wilson says there is a reserve of 143,000,000 bushels. I say there are not 100,000,000 bushels. It gets down to a question of fact. If Secretary Wilson, as he says, knows where this wheat reserve is, I wish he would inform my agents, and they will be able to place the wheat at prevailing prices."

"I may say this much, however. It is evident from Secretary Wilson's own statement that his information is mere play. The statement of a Kansas City newspaper man, quoted in Mr. Wilson's statement, that the supply of wheat on the farms March 1 was 143,000,000 bushels, is merely an estimate; not direct evidence. My evidence is direct."

Hints Cause Sensation.

Patten's statement, in which he intimated that the big wheat "shorts" in Wall street who have been squeezed by the Patten operations are responsible for the present agitation in Washington looking toward the prevention of speculation in grain futures has created something of a sensation here. It has also served to start speculation as to the identity of the "big Wall street shorts."

Several months ago it was reported that Reginald Vanderbilt had taken the bear side of the market in opposition to Patten, and had been "strung" for close to \$50,000. This was not confirmed at the time.

There is also considerable speculation among board of trade men as to the effect, if any, of Patten's open advocacy to-day of the policy of taking the tariff off wheat and all other grains.

"As to the taking the tariff off wheat," Patten said to-night, "when the American public knows its own interests it will demand that this very thing be done. But the existence of a tariff of 25 cents a bushel has nothing to do with the present high prices. If it were taken off to-morrow the price of wheat would not be affected 1 cent when the board opened Monday."

Could Be Expelled.

President John A. Bunnell, of the board of trade, to-night stated that if any one could produce proof that Patten was running a corner in wheat, Patten could be expelled under the rules of the board governing extortion. These rules will not permit any member of the board to obtain a fictitious price for his contracts, said Bunnell.

"We have received no complaints against Mr. Patten," he continued. "Any member of the board has a right to make one, however, and the board will act at once."

"I am glad that attention has been called to the methods of the board. The sooner the people learn that it is a legitimate business, conducted on the higher principles of modern commerce, the better it will be for all concerned."

Traders Appear Walling.

While Patten and Secretary Wilson were quarrelling to-day, the traders in the pit appeared to be waiting for something to happen. While there was a large

volume of business, in which the market was characterized by firmness all around, the range was not nearly so great as during the earlier days of the week, but the upward advance from the opening was steady.

May wheat opened at 1.17, advanced to 1.23, and closed within a fraction of that point. July opened at 1.17-1/4 and closed strong at 1.18, within 1-5 of the day's high. September ranged between 1.07-1/8 and 1.08-1/4.

That Thomas W. Lawson is heavily short of May wheat was the gossip about the market. "Lawson always talks a lot," said C. J. Lamson, of Lamson Bros., "and his squeak is loud when he is hurt worst. He is short a lot, and will say about anything that will bring the price down. The state of the market proves that he guessed badly. He ought to take his medicine and keep still. Instead of that he is trying, with other Wall street men, to influence Washington sentiment."

WHEAT CROP PLENTIFUL.

Department of Agriculture Says Corner Cannot Last.

The Department of Agriculture yesterday gave out a statement intended to put an end to the Chicago wheat corner. It is in part as follows: "The Department of Agriculture has estimated the amount of wheat on farms March 1, 1909, to be about 143,000,000 bushels, or 21 1/2 per cent of the amount produced in the country in 1908.

"Analysis of the wheat movement after March 1 in past years indicates that the yearly estimates of the percentage of the crops on farms March 1 has been about 5 per cent below the actual percentage.

"The amount of wheat produced in the calendar year 1908 was 665,000,000 bushels, as compared with 624,000,000 bushels for the crop year 1907, making 21,000,000 bushels more for the last crop year than we found the year previous, so it will be seen that a scarcity of wheat in this country is not the cause of the present abnormal prices.

"The world's wheat crop of 1908 was practically the same as the crop of 1907, but about 7 per cent less than the crop of 1906.

"In considering the food of the people throughout the year when wheat becomes dear, as it is now as the result of this Chicago corner, people use more corn than they do when wheat is cheaper. In many of our States our people resort to corn bread when wheat becomes dear, as the cost of every day's food has to be carefully calculated. In the Old World the people resort to rye to a greater extent when wheat becomes dear, so that the people who are running this corner will have to consider that less wheat will be used while it remains at an abnormally high price.

"There is a Department of Agriculture are farmers living on the farms, and know, if anybody knows, and have knowledge, if anybody has knowledge, of the facts. We cannot whistle these men down the wind. If we seek an honest class of community and hesitate to take the word of the American farmers, we will not establish truth by going to the gamblers.

"There is sufficient wheat in the country at normal prices to make bread for the American people up to the time when the new crop comes, and those who attempt to keep prices up at present rates expect to get the money out of the common people—the consumers.

"The large majority of wheat has left the hands of the farmers. A fictitious price has been created. The farmers are not beneficiaries of such conditions. They will naturally plant more wheat, and next year's crop is likely to be abnormally large, when the gamblers will not be in the market, and the mischief will be done by the disturbance of the crop system.

"In the corner of 1908, when the price of wheat was run up to \$1.35, the price was depressed the following year below 80 cents, the result undoubtedly of the upsetting of the equilibrium of normal supply and demand."

WIFE PAINTS HUSBAND'S NOSE.

His Hard Drinking, She Feared, Might Cost Him Position.

Indianapolis, April 17.—In the trial of a divorce suit to-day, Mrs. Dora Rost, who was the defendant, testified that for years she had been compelled to paint her husband's nose before he went to work. The presiding judge was greatly surprised, and asked the witness to explain.

"Mr. Rost drank so hard that his nose got red, and I was afraid he would lose his position because his employers would know he was drinking," said the woman.

ASQUITH HINTS AT CHANGES.

Governing Conditions of Naval Strategy May Be Affected.

London, April 17.—Prime Minister Asquith, speaking on the naval crisis to-day, said: "I am not speaking without weighing my words when I say we may be on the eve of new developments and forms in naval construction which may vitally affect many of the governing conditions of naval strategy." He advocated a convention of British and colonial authorities on the subject.

LILLEY NOT OUT OF DANGER.

No Further Improvement Shown by Connecticut's Governor.

Hartford, Conn., April 17.—For several days past, George L. Lilley has not shown any further improvement along the lines which so gratified his physicians early in the week that they thought he would be walking the streets before long. If he continued to gain at the rate which marked his recovery from the very serious crisis of Friday and Saturday of last week.

Dr. Graves said to-night that there was no change for the worse in the condition of Mr. Lilley, yet he remains in practically the same condition as for a week past. While the patient is resting comfortably, he is by no means out of danger.

OFFICERS SEEK KIDNAPPERS.

Heavily Armed, They Move on Camp of Accused Men.

Paducah, Ky., April 17.—Heavily armed officers from Paducah and Wickliffe are approaching the camp of Robert Lee Hawkins and two other men, about fifty miles down the Ohio River, to arrest Hawkins on the charge of kidnapping.

Estes, of this city, was visiting an uncle in Birmingham, Ala., last week the boy was kidnapped, it is alleged, by Hawkins, who formerly resided here. Hawkins, in a camp about fifty miles below here, and to-day Detective Moore and Police-men Gross and Ester left Paducah in a gasoline launch for the camp, being armed with shotguns and Winchester rifles. At the same time officers left Wickliffe, Ky., about the same distance below the camp, and they will meet at the camp and try to arrest the trio.

The boy's father swore out a warrant at Birmingham, charging Hawkins with kidnapping.

Indicted on Lynching Charge.

Pensacola, Fla., April 17.—Grand jury indictments were returned against James Thompson, alias "Redneck Bill," a former sailor, for participation in the mob that April 5 lynched William Alving, a negro charged with killing Policeman W. R. Carter.

OFFICERS FACING COURTS-MARTIAL

Navy in Turmoil Over Suppressed Circular.

SUMMONED TO CAPITAL

Approach to Insubordination Keeps Wires Hot.

Secretary Meyer Tries to Quell Pamphlet Prepared by Nine Officers of Line, Who Are Charged with Violation of the Rule Designed to Stifle Public Criticism. "An Astonishing Paper."

Philadelphia, April 17.—Something so closely approaching insubordination has broken out at the Philadelphia Navy Yard among the principal officers of the line that the official wires between the Navy Department at Washington and the navy yard are kept hot with dispatches summoning League Island officers to Washington.

Courts-martial for nine officers are talked of.

The officers are charged with violating the rule of the service designed to stifle public criticism of the acts of the department heads by the very men best fitted to criticize.

The officers maintain that they are guilty of insubordination or infraction of the naval regulations, and are backed up by Admiral Pendleton, commandant at the yard, who is quoted as declaring that the officers are right, and had it not been that opportunity was not given to do so, he would have been with them in their actions.

Pamphlet Brings Climax.

The climax of disaffection came last week, when a pamphlet, more astounding than any paper of its kind which ever had its origin in the United States navy, reached Secretary of the Navy Meyer's desk. It was a message from a secret meeting held on board the United States steamship Panther at League Island, on March 22.

The officers present at the meeting were Capt. Albert G. Berry, chairman of the committee; Commander B. C. Bryan, treasurer; Lieut. Commander J. S. McKean, Lieut. Commander N. C. Twining, secretary; Lieut. Commander R. D. Hasbrouck, Lieut. E. H. Delaney, Lieut. G. W. Steele, Jr., Ensign H. T. Dyer, and Midshipman W. S. Farber.

Immediately after the meeting the pamphlet was sent to be printed, and a copy was forwarded to Secretary Meyer at Washington, with the request that it might be circulated among the officers of the line.

The pamphlet was immediately suppressed and every available copy was at once sent to Washington, under orders from Secretary Meyer.

The Officers' Circular.

The officers, speaking through the circular, say:

"The officers stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and attached to the ships at that yard held a meeting on board the Panther on March 22, 1909, to discuss the conditions now existing at organization and administration, and to determine whether or not it would be practicable, in a manner consistent with military discipline, to secure an interchange of views among the scattered officers of the service, to the end that, in case of a favorable opportunity arising, the crystallized opinion of the service at large might be presented to the department.

"First—That the subject of naval administration in general had received but slight attention or study from the great majority of the officials of the navy.

"Second—That the recent changes in the navy yard administration were probably known in detail to but few officers, and were thoroughly understood by but a small percentage of these.

"Third—That the efficiency of the fleet should be the governing consideration in formulating any system of naval administration, and that this subject, therefore, be made the field of earnest study by every officer of the navy.

"Fourth—That for the purpose of arousing all officers to a full sense of the importance of this subject, and of promoting among them a sense of individual responsibility for the efficiency of the navy, it would be eminently proper to form an association, the object and function of which would be to collect, collate, study, and disseminate information regarding existing and possible systems of naval administration.

"Fifth—That for the purpose of making a beginning of such an association, a committee be formed from those officers now in Philadelphia, which committee should take immediate steps to communicate with officers at other stations with a view to securing their co-operation in the work."

The circular is signed by the nine officers named above.

HAIN'S TRIAL TO-MORROW.

Army Captain Will Face Murder Charge.

Flushing, L. I., April 17.—The final details of the defense of Capt. Peter C. Hains, who will be placed on trial here Monday for the killing of William E. Ames at the Bay Side Yacht Club last summer, will be arranged to-morrow at a conference to be held in the Long Island City jail, where Capt. Hains has spent the last seven months.

Gen. Peter C. Hains, the captain's father; T. Jenkins Hains and Maj. John R. Hains, his brothers, and their lawyers, will visit the prisoner to-morrow afternoon for the last time before he faces Judge Garretson on Monday.

Sheriff Harvey has summoned a special panel of talesemen for service on Monday morning, and Judge Garretson, who is noted for speedy trials, can be relied on to curtail any unnecessary legal squabbles or other matters that would delay action.

Miss Rockwell at Grace Episcopal Church in N.Y.

Bethlehem, N. Y., April 17.—At Grace Episcopal Church in N.Y., to-day, Miss Ella Rockwell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William H. Rockwell, of that place, and Arthur Smith, of New York, were married. Rev. Corwin B. Smith, of New York, officiating. The maid of honor was Miss A. Elizabeth Swales, daughter of Gen. and Mrs. Charles G. Swales, of Washington, D. C.

POLICE SEEK WAITER.

S. J. Rosso and Wife Missing from Twelfth Street Home.

The police are looking for S. J. Rosso, waiter in the New Willard Hotel, who disappeared with his wife from their apartments at 721 Twelfth street northwest, several days ago. It is alleged he obtained \$300 from Max L. Pausch, of 729 Thirteenth street northwest, by false pretenses.

Such is employed at the New Willard as a waiter. The men were good friends. It is alleged Rosso borrowed \$300 from Pausch for use as collateral for his wife, whom he claimed had been arrested on the charge of assaulting a man.

CITY SWELTERS WITH HEAT

Mercury Makes Record of Eighty-seven Degrees.

Eighty-seven degrees in the shade. The hottest and stuffiest and most uncomfortable day the young year has so far offered Washington came yesterday. The humidity was almost tangible. The air hung heavily and lifelessly, with not a breath of wind stirring, and with lazy, soggy clouds floating about.

Washington was hemmed in with heat. Fresh from its winter's lethargy, the thermometer played pranks with humanity, and startled the unsuspecting observers by climbing to heights far beyond its legitimate bounds.

The mercury was in the "eighties" all afternoon. It reached its zenith at 3:30 o'clock, when it registered 87, but held on with remarkable tenacity until sundown. At that hour the sky held forth a promise of a cooling rain, which it did not fulfill.

There were two heat prostrations to emphasize the lesson of the thermometer. The pavements were in places, soft as putty, and the asphalt gave easily under the sharp weight of the wheel rim and the automobile tires.

The two persons prostrated by heat were removed to Georgetown University Hospital. The first victims were Miss Edith Arnold, twenty-four years old, of 323 R street northwest, and Philip Fortune, negro, forty-nine years old. Both recovered sufficiently to walk home after treatment at the hospital.

There was a case of heat prostration while at work on a building in O street, between Thirtieth and Thirty-first streets northwest. He is employed by the Brennan Construction Company and lives at 1128 Lincoln court.

About two hours later Miss Arnold grew suddenly ill while walking at Thirty-sixth street and Prospect avenue northwest. She was carried into a store, and later removed to the hospital in a patrol wagon.

WADE ELLIS HITS TRUST LAW

Assistant Attorney General Addresses Bar Association.

State of a Corporation Ought Not to Make It Outlaw, He Says—Remarks Held to Be Significant.

New York, April 17.—Declaring that he did not speak in his official capacity, but as one lawyer to another, Wade Ellis, of Ohio, the new assistant to the Attorney General of the United States by the personal selection of President Taft, responded to the toast, "The business man and the law," at the annual banquet of the Westchester Bar Association at Delmonico's to-night, in such a manner as to leave the impression among many of the members of the association that "dry" trust, questions and kindred topics of governmental policy may have had a deeper significance than he claimed for it.

He not only gave the Sherman antitrust law a solar plexus blow, but presented ideas of how it should be amended to make it effective; went on record as approving tariff agreements and pooling between railroads; took direct issue with E. H. Harriman by declaring that there should be no retreat from the policy of governmental control of railroads; and declared that "unmeasurably good" the past seven years' agitation of moral, social, and economic questions.

He declared that the first thing to do with the antitrust law "is to make its terms clearly and precisely define everything that it forbids," and he summed up the essentials of such a law as follows:

That the meaning must be made clear. That no combination of capital should be condemned unless the intent is to control prices. That the mere size of a corporation ought not to make it an outlaw. That private business, so far as it is consistent with the public welfare, ought to be left in private hands.

He felt that it was not in the size of a corporation, but in the secrecy with which it was conducted, that the danger lay, and that there were natural limitations to the power of control of any corporation, and that it was his own flag, with its own name over the door.

"If the day ever comes," he exclaimed, "when one man or one corporation shall buy all the wheat and make all the flour, or buy all the coal and iron and make all the steel, we may be driven to some lawful and orderly method to protect the public, but that is a remote contingency, which no distortion of present conditions can twist into a prophecy."

He maintained that the anti-trust act should not apply to railroads, because protection could be amply secured through the interstate commerce act, and in his finger at Harriman, after insisting that no policy should be adopted by the government to retard the natural development of transportation facilities, Mr. Ellis said:

"In my judgment, he is likely to be disappointed who predicts a retreat along the line of railroad supervision by the government, and he is mistaken who asserts that the issuance of railroad securities is the only business."

In conclusion, Mr. Ellis declared that "we will never go back to any of the evils that are gone; we may proceed more steadily, but we will not halt; every inch of ground that has been gained in the cause of better government will be held."

FOUND HOME FOR GIRLS.

Will of Charles E. Ellis Provides \$2,500,000 for Institution.

Philadelphia, April 17.—Charles E. Ellis, the trolley magnate, who accidentally killed himself with a revolver on April 5 at his home, left \$2,500,000 for the creation of a home for fatherless girls, to be known as the Charles E. Ellis home for Fatherless Girls, and to be conducted on lines similar to that of the Ellis home.

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"CHRISTIAN HOME." SHILOH BAPTIST Church, L. st. between 20th and 21st sts. Rev. J. Milton Waldron, D. D., pastor. Sunrise morning, 6 Sunday school, 9:30. Men's Bible class in room to itself at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor. Christian Endeavor at 8 and 9 p. m. Good music, good cheer, and Christian fellowship. Everybody invited. Seats free.

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